

California High-Speed Train News, August 7, 2009

Board Institutes Initiatives to Ensure Project Schedule, Budget and Accountability

August 6, 2009

SACRAMENTO - The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors today instituted sweeping organizational transparency and accountability measures to ensure that the public investment in a high-speed train is delivered on-budget and on-time.

Under the leadership of newly elected board chairman, Curt Pringle, the Authority created three standing committees:

- Executive Administrative Committee: Chairman Curt Pringle, Judge Quentin Kopp, Director Fran Florez
- Operations Committee: Directors Richard Katz, Rod Diridon, Jr. and Russ Burns
- Finance: Directors Tom Umberg, David Crane and Lynn Schenk

"Our record for accountability continues to be spotless and with this action today we will use every tool at our disposal to bring about renewed commitment and greater accountability and ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely," said Curt Pringle, chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and mayor of the City of Anaheim.

Chairman Pringle further announced the Board's intent to hold workshops, as was done immediately following the meeting, to educate and inform the public on the high-speed system plans. Workshops will examine the project's phasing and planned operations, project financing and administration and oversight of the Authority. Additional organizational transparency measures include maintaining and keeping current the California High-Speed Rail Authority Web site, posting all applications and other required documentation.

The Board also heard plans for the September public scoping process in the Los Angeles to San Diego section, which is routed through the Inland Empire, reflecting the accelerating pace of project-specific environmental review in Southern California.

The Authority's planning and engineering consultants confirmed that extensive collaboration with cities and other stakeholders within the section will continue as part of the assessment process.

The Board also:

- Discussed proposal for development of new "investment grade" ridership and revenue forecasts to assist in attracting public-private partnerships.
- Approved cooperative agreement with the Italian Ministry of Infrastructures and Transportation.
- Approved cooperative agreement with Germany.

High-Speed Rail Executive Director Mehdi Morshed says the project's partners have worked hard the past few years to move the project forward, and that collaboration is paying off.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority is responsible for building high-speed train service covering 800 miles at speeds over 220 MPH. Voters approved Proposition 1A on the November 2008 ballot putting a

down payment on what will be America's first high-speed train system.

By linking all major cities in California with a state of the art new transportation option, California's high-speed train system will increase mobility while cutting air pollution and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. Building the highspeed train system will cost less than half the cost of freeway and aviation alternatives.

Operating the system will create an annual surplus of more than \$1 billion. For route information, visual simulations and more, please visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

The workshop video and presentation material will be available at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov beginning as soon as possible on Friday, August 7.

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Contact:

Kris Deutschman
(916) 444-8801
(916) 425-7174 cell

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